

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 CU-02 EB-07 USPS-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

----- 038439

R 191045Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6100

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0439

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS TO BE BURNED

REF: 75 VIENTIANE 5087 (NOTAL)

1. IN A SOMEWHAT DELAYED DENOUEMENT TO A CONTROVERSY WHICH PROVIDED INNOCENT AMUSEMENT TO OBSERVERS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1975, THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO BURN THE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS FEATURING PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WHICH IT HAD HAD PRINTED TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL.

2. THE INFORMATION MINISTRY'S OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 19 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY:

BEGIN TEXT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OTHERS OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS, THE MINISTRY OF POSTS  
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AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS HAS ESTABLISHED, FOLLOWING MINISTERIAL DECISION NO. 13/MPT OF FEBRUARY 14, 1976, A COMMISSION FOR

THE BURNING OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS "USA BICENTENNIAL SERIES"  
WHICH DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PRESENT SITUATION OF LAOS.

THIS COMMISSION MET ON FEBRUARY 16, 1976 AT 1500 AT THE  
MINISTRY OF P.T. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. SOMPHONE  
NAOVARATH, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS. IT INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES  
OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES, NOTABLY: MR. SOMLITH SAIGNAVON OF THE  
MINISTRY OF P.T.; MR. SOUKTHAVONE KEOLA OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MR. KHAMPHONG BOUNNAVONG OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE; MR. PHIVATH SOURICHACK OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE;  
MR. SITHAT, DIRECTOR OF PHILATELY; MR. SISAVATH, COMPTROLLER OF  
POSTS AND MR. ROUZO, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY  
IN LAOS, HOLDING POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR THE SOCIETE IGANFA.

AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, THE COMMISSION DECIDED  
TO HAVE THE STAMPS BURNED ON FEBRUARY 26, 1976. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THE PRESS HAS STATED THAT THE EVENT IS TO TAKE  
PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN VIENTIANE AND PARIS AT 0900 VIENTIANE TIME;  
I.E., 0300 AT PARIS. WE DO NOT YET KNOW IF THE AUTO-DA-FE  
WILL BE PUBLIC. CORCORAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POSTAGE STAMPS, BICENTINIAL CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976VIENTI00439  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760063-0691  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760232/aaaabcaz.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 VIENTIANE 5087  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS TO BE BURNED  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006